

Welcome

It was a huge pleasure to watch Year 6 children perform their Shakespeare play at the Wilde Theatre on Wednesday evening. 6H performed Macbeth and 6S Twelfth Night – we also had had some children in the wings helping with lighting, sounds and props. All the children worked incredibly hard in their rehearsals and all their hard work clearly paid off; they were confident, articulate and most importantly had huge smiles on their faces—even if it was at the end when it was all over!. A big thank you also to all the staff that helped, supported and encouraged the children, and parent and family members who came along to support them.

This week we also had the NHS funded workshop Fantastic Fred visiting, they performed to Y1-Y6 children about their Mental Health. Your child would have brought home a wristband and a parent guide for you to read.

Please have a look at the dates in the diary below for upcoming events including Nativity plays for Nursery, Reception and Key Stage 1, We will be celebrating Children in Need next Friday 18th November. The theme is 'Show your Spots' Children can accessorise their school uniform with spots, such as hairbands, socks, spots in hair or their faces etc.



Michael Dillon - Headteacher

Year 2 Topic: Should We Remember Florence?

In Year 2, we have been learning all about Florence Nightingale. We have learnt about the many changes Florence made to hospitals and we have learnt many fun facts!

The children have also looked at some of Florence Nightingale's diary entries and will soon be writing their very own diary entry from the perspective of the 'Lady with the Lamp' and those who she helped.



lady with the Lamp x



Florence practises first aid on her pet dog.

Year 3 Topic: What Have We Adopted From Prehistoric Man

This week Year 3 have been learning 'How to wash a woolly mammoth'. They have been learning the features of instructional texts and this week have particularly enjoyed following instructions and making their very own woolly mammoths.



Year 4 Topic: Crime & Punishment

This half term commenced with Y4 putting their detective skills to the test to solve the case of Mrs Cameron's missing (apple) pie. They used their noticing skills and powers of questioning to crack the case. They then presented their findings to Ms Cameron and suggested suitable punishments for the culprit. We are enjoying exploring crimes and punishments through the ages and looking forward to our upcoming visit to Oxford Castle where we can handle some artefacts.

Fantastic Fred


Children in years 1-6 took part in the "Fantastic Fred Experience" yesterday. Fantastic Fred is a mental health workshop specially designed to inform, equip and build resilience by delivering simple, memorable and practical ways that young children can look after their mental health as well as explaining the link between physical and mental health.

Children were taught the key focus of eating the right foods, getting enough sleep, being active and managing time on devices.





Children's Achievements

Adam (Year 5) and Zac (Year 2) were lucky enough to be mascots for Maidenhead FC over half term. Adam carried the ball out with the captain of the team and Zac was close behind him. Well done to Adam and Zac!



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Reception parents
'Busy Bags' workshops 9:00-10:30am on
Thursday 17th & Thursday 24th November 2022

Dear Parents,

Please see below for details of a Family Learning session provided for Reception children this year - you are warmly invited to join your child in school to find out more about how writing, phonics and reading are taught in Reception and have fun making a 'Busy Bag' together.


We have managed to book the Family Learning Team to help run this event - please come along to the Studio straight after drop-off - the session will finish by **10:30 latest**. Each class has its own session:

| RA | RW |
|----------|----------|
| 17/11/22 | 24/11/22 |

Sessions are free, just turn up with a medium (A4) sized gift bag to 'repurpose' (we also have bags in school) and we will show you how to make it busy!

These sessions provide a wonderful (and rare!) opportunity for you to work 1:1 with your child and we would ask that younger siblings are not brought along on this occasion. Please complete the online form via the link below.

<https://forms.office.com/r/v7g9rXcQ4P>



Friends Update

We had a meeting this Tuesday. Unfortunately, we've had to agree that we can't organise a Christmas fair this year. This is mainly due to not having the committee member and volunteers required to run events. We are hoping to put on a Summer fair and a Circus next year.



So we are looking for volunteers to join the committee. If you think you can help in any way please get in touch by emailing us at friendsbirch-hill@gmail.com.

Thank you to everyone who has contacted us through our Facebook post the other day. We will be setting a coffee morning to get together, meet everyone, meet Mr Dillon and explain what we do and also work out ways we can all help within our own skills and time. As soon as we have details we will be in touch but this will be before the end of term.

We also need a replacement treasurer. Our current one no longer has children at the school. So we are keen to fill this part of our committee as soon as we can.

Please contact us if you think this could be for you.

Christmas card designs are now being printed and we should receive all the completed orders by the 2nd December to distribute. I will confirm when the class teachers have them. We have had a great response and the designs are amazing, So we're so looking forward to them being sent. IQ have been really helpful and have agreed to print forms we've received late. Please note in the future that we need to stick to the dates agreed through them as this can hold up the printing, which is something we would prefer to avoid. We have agreed that having the designs completed at school works really well.

We're very pleased to confirm that the new EYFS climbing frame is now open for business. Which is fantastic. The area around it has now been filled with bark.

Thank you so much to Mark at Callibra for providing it all. We needed a lot so we are very grateful. We are very much looking forward to seeing the kids enjoying it. Their reactions and faces to seeing it being installed were priceless.



We agreed at Tuesday's meeting that our next projects will be a spruce up for the library and look at updating the existing play area opposite the Year 4 classrooms.

In the coming months we are concentrating on volunteer requests so that we are able to fundraise the best we can and achieve these projects as soon as we can.

We are organising a Christmas jumper day, which will be in the last week of term. (Date to be confirmed) Wear your Christmas jumper for £1. We will accept cash on the gates this time, and team members will be ready to take in your donations as the kids come in. We will let you know the date as soon as we have confirmed it with Mr Dillon.

Our next meeting will be at 6pm on the 17th of January in the staff room.

All the best wishes from the Friends Team :-)

DATES FOR THE DIARY

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|---|---|
| Year 5 Ufton Court Trip | Friday 18th November |
| Children in Need | Friday 18th November |
| Reception Family Learning - Busy Bags (more information to follow). | RA—17th November — 9.00-11.00am RW—24th November - 9.00-11.00am |
| Asthma Parent Drop-In Morning | Tuesday 22nd November - 8.30am |
| Year 4 Oxford Castle Trip | Thursday 24th November |
| Nursery Nativity | Friday 2nd December - 9.45am |
| Year 3 Carols at Easthampstead Baptist Church | Tuesday 6th December - 7.00pm |
| Reception Nativity | Wednesday 7th December—2.00pm Friday 9th December—9.30am |
| Key Stage 1 Nativity | Wednesday 7th December—9.30am Thursday 8th December—9.30am Thursday 8th December—6.00pm |
| 5K Carols at Liscombe House | Monday 12th December |
| Christmas Lunch | Wednesday 14th December |
| END OF TERM | FRIDAY 16TH DECEMBER |
| INSET DAY | TUESDAY 3RD JANUARY 2023 |
| SPRING TERM STARTS | WEDNESDAY 4TH JANUARY 2023 |